

HARPSWELL ENERGY TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 13, 2009 MEETING MINUTES - Approved 10-21-09

Committee Chairman David I. Chipman called the meeting to order at 4:05p.m. at the Harpswell Town Office. Committee members Debora Levensailor and John Monaghan, Jr., Town Administrator Kristi Eiane, Town Planner Carol Tukey, and Recycling Center Manager Fred Cantu also attended the meeting.

The committee is assisting the Town of Harpswell in applying for a block grant provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 which is being administered by the State of Maine Public Utilities Commission Energy Program Division/Efficiency Maine. If successful, the town stands to receive up to \$85,000 in economic stimulus funds. According to the information provided in the application packet, the funds must be used for "job creation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, weatherization, and workforce development..." and "... in a cost-effective way to generate ongoing benefits in energy efficiency and emissions reductions." The deadline for submitting the grant application is November 18, 2009.

John attended an energy seminar and learned of the grant and is taking the lead in gathering the necessary information required for the application. Deb discovered the existence of the grant while filming Town of Freeport meetings recently and notified the committee members, Kristi, Carol, and Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator, in an email a few weeks previous to this meeting. The Town of Freeport is also applying for the grant funds. Carol spoke about regional efforts to secure grant funds.

Those present at the meeting discussed the urgency in applying for this grant, the various steps involved in the process and how Harpswell could use the funds if the grant application is approved.

Several energy usage related modifications to the Town Office were identified by CEO William Wells and Efficiency Maine in September of 2008. The committee members and others present talked about how the committee has held on-going discussions at their meetings since that time regarding replacing the lights in the parking lot behind the Town Office with LED lights, putting them on timers, suggesting other ways to reduce electrical usage at the Town Office, Recycling Center and TV Station, possibly turning off unnecessary CMP street lights, and the committee's plans to produce educational programs at Harpswell Community TV in an effort to increase public awareness of energy and cost saving measures available to town residents.

Fred said he has been monitoring electrical usage at the recycling center and that he is working on another grant, and also with Efficiency Maine to secure rebates, which may be used toward meeting matching funds requirements.

The committee members and others present identified the following as the next steps to be taken in the grant application process: (1) John will conduct an energy usage review at the TV Station this week and another one at the Recycling Center soon; (2) Kristi said the town staff will work on "tightening up" electrical usage at the Town Office; (3) Kristi has requested \$10,000 in the 2010 town budget to be used as matching funds for the grant and will review the request with the Budget Advisory Committee; (4) The committee and town staff will develop a community energy plan and get it ready in time for town residents to fully understand the benefits of approving the matching grant funds request at the 2010 town meeting; (5) Deb will talk to her neighbor Martha Burt, a teacher at Harpswell Islands School, about ways in which the committee can involve HIS students, teachers, and staff in the community energy plan and other energy education projects; (6) Dave will talk to Scott Lemieux about the educational portable wind turbine project he has constructed and how it can be integrated into the community energy plan and about involving

West Harpswell Elementary School students, teachers, and staff in the plan; (7) John will talk with local plumbing and electrical companies regarding the modifications at the Town Office; (8) Dave and Deb will work on creating and filming local energy education TV programs; and (9) John will create an action checklist regarding what still needs to be done to meet the grant application requirements and distribute the list to the committee members, and Kristi, Carol, Fred and others as necessary.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, AT 2P.M.
AT THE HARPSWELL TOWN OFFICE.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debora A. Levensailor,

Harpswell Energy Task Force Committee Vice-Chairwoman